

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Youth Evangelism Conf. taking shape

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) on December 30-31 at Mississippi College in Clinton will feature marathon runner Wade Morris of Birmingham, author and founder of The Journey, an expository Bible study and devotional series on CD.

Worship leader for the conference will be Jake Gulledge of Atlanta, founder of Jake Gulledge Ministries/Just Worship and a frequent musical guest at the annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Super Summer, and other events in the state.

The theme of the 2004 conference is, "Can You Hear Me Now?," based on Romans 10:13.

"Wade is one of the best communicators of the Gospel that I know right now. He has met many of our Mississippi students while speaking at Student Life events. Wade is passionate about seeing students come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and then sharing that story with other people that need to hear," said Jay Fletcher, single adult pastor at Pinelake Church, Brandon, and one of the coordinators of the conference for the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"His straight-forward, honest approach is what we were looking for in this year's keynote speaker. Wade will challenge the students of Mississippi to share their faith and give them some very practical methods to do that. He will also share the Gospel presentation on Thursday night and give an invitation to receive Christ.

"Churches need to challenge their students to bring their lost friends. If you would like to know more about Wade, check out his website at wademorris.com," Fletcher said.

"Jake Gulledge has been a friend of mine for some ten years. He is also a friend to many of the youth ministers and students in our state. Jake has led worship for Super Summer and Youth Night and we are excited to have him lead worship for YEC. You can learn more about Jake at his website, justworship.org," Fletcher said.

"A View from the Branch is an awesome drama team that will add to the conference in so many ways. Students respond to drama. We heard from so many students and youth ministers desiring drama to be a part of YEC and we are excited that God led us to this team," Fletcher said.

Shannon Slover, minister to youth at First Church, Laurel, who is coordinating YEC along with Fletcher, stressed the three goals of the conference: "First, we want to point students to Christ. We desire for you to bring lost students with you because they will hear the Gospel clearly presented on Thursday evening in session two. Second, we want students

Boulevard Church, Meridian (adults, Old Sanctuary of First Church, Clinton).

"As you can see, we have an incredible lineup of people that are sold out to Jesus Christ and ready to minister to the needs of your students," Slover said.

Conference registration will begin at noon on December 30, with youth ministers/counselors meeting at 1:15 p.m. in Swor Auditorium and the first session beginning at 2 p.m. in A.E. Wood Coliseum. The first session will end at 4 p.m.

Participants will return at 6:30 p.m. for breakout groups and the session two at 8 p.m. Session two will end at 10 p.m.

On December 31, activities will begin at 8:45 a.m. with breakout groups, to be followed at 10 a.m. by session three. Session three will dismiss at 11 a.m.

Participants will return at 1:15 p.m. for breakout groups, with the final session beginning at 2:30 p.m. The conference will dismiss at 3:30 p.m.

"A.E. Wood Coliseum was full last year and we are expecting an overflow crowd this year. Most of the motel rooms right around the Clinton area are already gone.

"We have had so many calls over the last couple of months from churches that have never been to YEC, but because they know Wade or Jake, they are planning on attending this year.

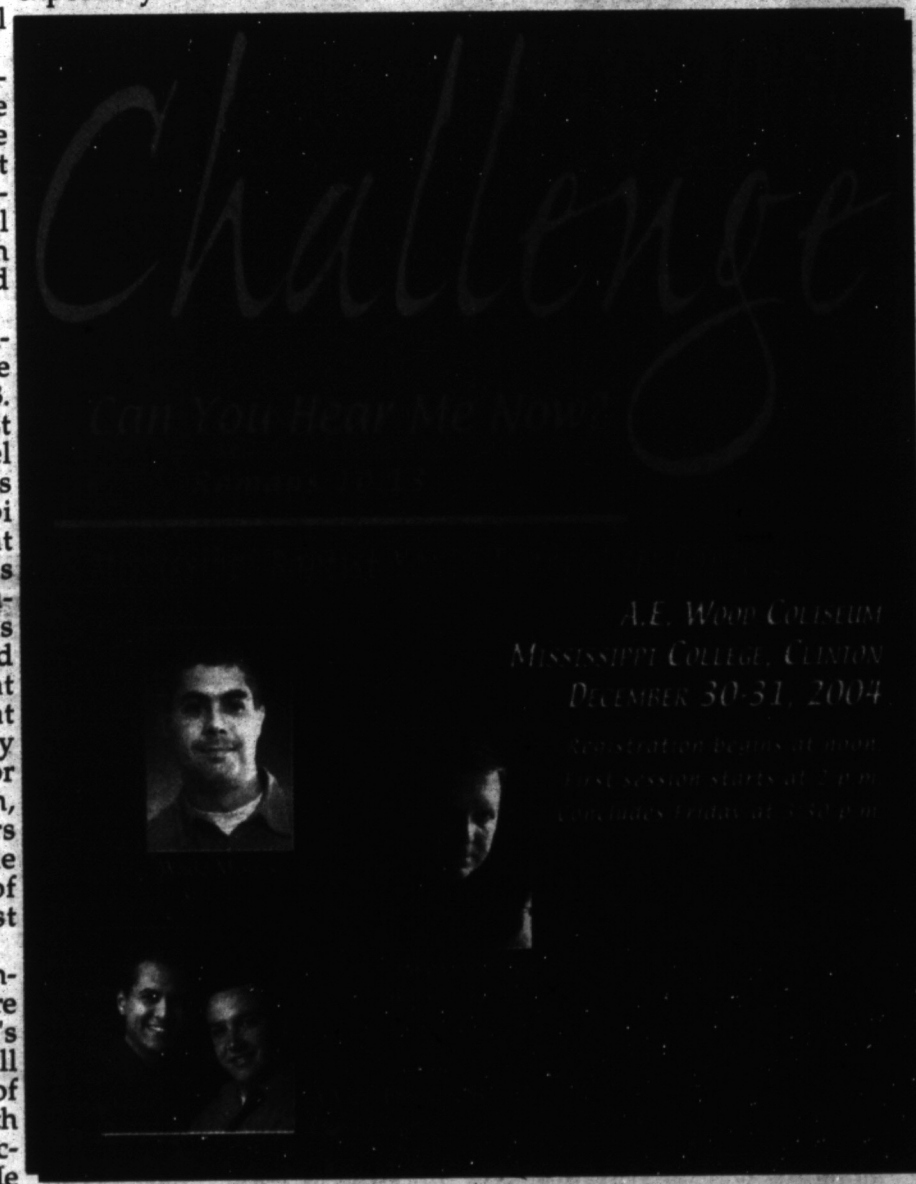
"We feel like Wade, Jake, and A View from the Branch are the best team we have ever had at YEC. It promises to be an incredible two days! You will not want to miss this year's event," Fletcher said.

Pre-registrations must arrive in the MBCB Evangelism Department before 4:30 p.m. on December 15. Pre-registration cost is \$10 per person. Cost is \$15 per person at the door. Cash and checks (made payable to MBCB) will be accepted. No credit cards can be accepted for pre-registration or at the door. No refunds after December 15.

For more information, registration forms, or to arrange for special needs (handicap assistance, deaf interpretation, etc.), contact Elaine Smith at the MBCB Evangelism Department. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: esmith@mbcb.org.

To download a mail-in registration form or for information on area hotels, go to www.mbc.org and click on 2004 Youth Evangelism Conference.

The 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



A.E. WOOD COLISEUM
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON
DECEMBER 30-31, 2004

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT NOON
FIRST SESSION STARTS AT 2 P.M.
CONFERENCE WILL DISMISS AT 3:30 P.M.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

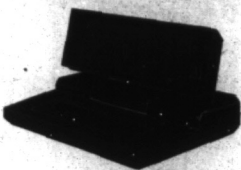
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Just for the Record

Sunday School Lessons

Baptist Children's Village

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All that glitters...

Gambling in all its many now-legal forms has for years been promoted to the American people as a way to get rich quick and short-circuit all the quaint old notions about ambition and working hard to get ahead. Very few months pass without big newspaper headlines describing someone down on their luck who has just won a million dollars at a casino or \$150 million in a multi-state lottery.

Facing bankruptcy? Can't pay your medical bills? Is the mortgage company foreclosing on your home? No problem! Everything can be taken care of by spinning the wheels of casino machines or buying a fistful of lottery tickets — because we all know that money solves everything, right?

Not exactly. The web site, Bankrate.com., recently published a series of authoritative articles written by Ellen Goodstein that really nails down the fantasy/fallacy of gambling as a ticket to Easy Street.

"For a lot of people, winning the lottery is the American dream. But for many lottery winners, the reality is more like a nightmare," Goodstein writes.

"Winning the lottery isn't always what it's cracked up to be," says Evelyn Adams, who won the New Jersey lottery not just once but twice (1985, 1986) to the tune of \$5.4 million. Today the money is all gone and Adams lives in a trailer.

"I won the American dream but I lost it, too. It was a very hard fall. It's called rock bottom," says Adams.

Another lottery winner tracked down by Goodstein, William "Bud" Post, won more than \$16 million in the Pennsylvania lottery in 1988. Within a year, all the money was gone and he was one million dollars in debt. His brother allegedly attempted to hire a hit man to kill him for the money, and Post himself served a sentence for shooting at a bill collector.

Post is now bankrupt and living off \$450 a month in Social Security and food stamps. "I

wish it never happened. It was totally a nightmare," he told Goodstein.

Other lottery winners who actually lost in the long run, according to Goodstein, include:

- Suzanne Mullins, who won \$4.2 million in the Virginia Lottery in 1993. She is now deeply in debt and facing a judgment against her of nearly \$155,000.

- Ken Proxmire, who won one million dollars in the Michigan lottery. Within five years, he was forced to file bankruptcy.

- Willie Hurt, who also won the Michigan lottery to the tune of \$3.1 million in 1989. Two years later, he was penniless and charged with murder.

- Janite Lee won \$18 million in the Missouri Lottery in 1993, but filed for bankruptcy a few years later with only \$700 in assets.

- A winner who wished to be identified only as being from the Southeast, won a \$4.2 million lottery jackpot in the early 1990s but is now broke, divorced, and living with his/her adult children.

All of those horror stories are merely one dark side of legalized gambling that Mississippians should consider when we are confronted with the next pie-in-the-sky scheme from the gambling/political complex in this state.

As a matter of fact, Mississippi could be the next sad entry on Goodstein's losers list. As legislators convene in early January to face the most serious state budget crisis in decades, we should all remember that the gambling/political complex assured us (and continues to assure us to this day)

"HONEY, DON'T EVER RIDE
THAT BUS!"



that legalized gambling will have us rolling in money forever.

Our schools were supposed to flush with perpetual funding, but instead are considering teacher layoffs and four-day weeks to make ends meet. Our highways were going to be the envy of the nation, yet the Mississippi Department of Transportation reports that highway improvement programs are underfunded and unable to meet projected completion dates. The unfulfilled predictions could go on, *ad infinitum*.

We've heard it many times from many wise people: We cannot gamble our way to prosperity. When will we come to our senses?

GUEST OPINION:



Don't lose the 'I' in missions

By Wanda Lee, exec. director/treasurer
Woman's Missionary Union, SBC

When our son Matthew was a preschooler, he loved to go to Mission Friends on Wednesday evening at our church. Following prayer meeting one week, he came to his pastor's office (who happened to be his father), proudly carrying a puzzle he had created.

As he assembled it on Larry's desk, he became quite upset. Trying to finish the puzzle without much success, Matthew finally told Larry the puzzle was not complete. Somewhere along the way, he had dropped the "I" out of missions.

Out of the mouths of our children often come significant truths.

If we lose the "I" out of missions, we just have another program that people can opt in and out of at will. Missions is not a program; it has been a part of God's heart from the beginning of the ages, as He sought to restore fellowship with His people. From the call of Abraham in the Old Testament to Jesus' parting words to all of His followers to go and tell the good news, missions is living a Christlike life.

What does the "I" in missions mean to you? For me, the "I" dictates that I grow in

my knowledge and understanding of the world and its people. I am personally responsible for developing my view of the world in a way that reflects the heart of God.

The "I" in missions also means I am responsible for those I pray for and how I pray. If my prayers are always focused on my needs, the needs of my family, or the concerns of my church, then I have left the

"I" out of missions. God desires that out of my relationship with Him, my knowledge of the needs of the world and my personal experiences in serving Him, I lift up those around the world who are lost and those who have committed themselves to serve sacrificially.

The "I" in missions also means I am personally responsible for giving of my financial resources so God's message can

go forward in the world. Stewardship of all that we have and are is a biblical principle that all followers of Christ must commit to each day. To learn about the needs of others and pray about them — but do nothing towards providing the resources needed to accomplish God's work — allows the "I" in missions to be lost.

So I will ask the question once again. What does the "I" in missions mean to you?

As we enter this focused season of prayer and giving for a world desperately in need of a personal relationship with Christ, what will you do to educate yourself about the needs of the people around the world? How will you pray? What will you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Matthew understood at an early age that if we lose the "I" out of missions, we have missed the reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place. Missions is personal, and the mission call is from God's heart to each of ours.

The national Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention and is headquartered in Birmingham.



**That all peoples
may know Him**

Week of Prayer for International Missions

and
International Mission Study
Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2004

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®
National Goal: \$150 million

Our Goal: _____

IMB: Gospel moving among people groups

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The Gospel began making inroads this past year among 131 people groups that previously had little or no access to the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, International Mission Board (IMB) trustees were told during a Nov. 16-17 meeting in Oklahoma City.

The trustees also heard a report of more than 600,000 overseas baptisms, adopted a \$283.1 million budget for 2005, and personally pledged \$88,396 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Southern Baptist missionaries and their overseas Baptist partners engaged 163 people groups for the first time during 2003, said Gordon Fort, the board's vice president for overseas operations. Of those, 131 unreached groups — representing 152 million souls — had virtually no access to the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

International Mission Board workers also reported that 607,132 believers were baptized, a net increase of 97,973 (19.2%). Just last year the number of baptisms passed 500,000 for the first time.

The total number of congregations worldwide reached 99,495, a net increase of 15,480 (18.4%) over the previous year. That growth was fed by 21,028 new Baptist congregations, an increase of 4,428 (26.7%). Of those new churches, 16,891 were produced by church-planting movements among approximately 50 people groups.

In other categories of the annual report:

- Total outreach groups grew to 50,297, a net increase of 3,920 (8.5%) over the previous year. That increase was made possible by 9,216 new outreach groups, although that number was down 413 (4.3%) from previous year.
- Overseas church member-



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**Week of Prayer for
International Missions
and
International Mission Study**
Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2004

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*
National Goal: \$150 million
Our Goal: _____

ship climbed another 7.2% (498,886) to a total of 7,451,242.

- Bible teaching enrollment rose 234,318 (6.3%) to 3,942,886;

- New believers in discipleship training reached 490,046, an increase of 66,760 (15.8%). More than 80% of the people baptized this past year were enrolled in discipleship training.

- Church members in discipleship training grew by 156,208 (17.7%) to 1,037,985;

- Non-residential leadership training enrollment jumped 29% (24,809) to 110,356;

- Residential leadership training recorded an increase of 909 (4.1 percent) to 22,959;

- International missionaries fielded by Baptist partners rose 22.6% (351) to a total of 1,901;

- Baptist partner home missionaries totaled 3,920, an increase of 1,595 (68.6%). The large increase in this category was partly the result of better application of the correct definition of "home missionary" during the collection of data.

These numbers provide a snapshot of the amazing way God is moving lost people all over the world to faith in Jesus Christ," Fort said. "The number of new churches illustrates the serious efforts of our missionaries and Baptist partners to conserve these new believers and extend the Kingdom like glowing candles in the midst of vast spiritual darkness."

"The evangelical world is aware as never before concerning the number of people groups and significant population segments that remain without a Christian witness," he added. "This gap in global witness gives us a growing sense of urgency. While waiting for a witness, the eternal destiny of lost men and women hangs in the balance."

"We want to sound a trumpet call to Southern Baptists to assemble all the resources necessary to complete the task in this generation. It is my conviction that Southern Baptists are a mission people. They will rise to the incredible global opportunities that God has laid before us."

Trustee chairman Tom Hatley of Rogers, Ark., challenged board members to adopt a "whatever it takes" attitude toward sending the number of missionaries needed to complete the Great Commission task.

After his election in May, Hatley asked the board's overseas leadership to estimate how many new missionaries would be required to take the Gospel to the largest people groups that have yet to hear it. In a three-hour, closed-door dialogue Nov. 16, the board's 11 regional leaders delivered a preliminary report to trustees.

Southern Baptists need to increase dramatically the number of missionaries and funding for international missions — perhaps by as much as 60%, Hatley said.

"Working with our Great Commission Christian partners, we can reach all people groups numbering more than 100,000 with the Gospel, and we can do it in years, not decades," Hatley said. "God has provided the resources, the technology and the ability to travel. We are at a point of opportunity never before seen."

"We need to let our brothers and sisters know the size of the task that remains and that it can be achieved in the next few years," Hatley said. "This is not a goal; it is a mandate given to us by our Lord."

The trustees also adopted a 2005 budget of \$283.1 million that represented an increase of \$7.1 million over the total budget for 2004. The revenue plan anticipates receiving \$99.6 million from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program giving channel and \$150 million from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The spending plan allocates \$243.8 million to overseas operations, an increase of more than \$20.3 million (9.1%) over 2004. The \$37.7 million allocated to stateside administration and promotion represents an

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'Kinsey' flops

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Kinsey, the just-released feature film that celebrates the life of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, was shown in just 36 theaters nationwide on the weekend of Nov. 19-21 and grossed \$569,000, according to boxoffice Mojo.com. That's compared to the weekend's top film, National Treasure, which opened in 3,017 theaters and grossed \$35,298,000. The top four films for the weekend were rated either PG or G, while Kinsey is rated R. The Kinsey film is drawing criticism from conservative groups such as Focus on the Family (<http://www.family.org/topics/a0034455.cfm>) and Concerned Women for America (www.cwfa.org/kinsey.asp) for failing to tell the real story of the Indiana University zoologist who allowed pedophiles to molest children as part of his research on human sexuality. Instead of using tactics that would attract more attention to the film, the two groups are approaching the issue with a more subtle strategy. "For those who think of people of faith as poor, uneducated and easy to command, I'm sure it would be amusing to see people praying outside of theaters," Focus on the Family spokeswoman Kristi Hamrick said, according to The Washington Post. "But we want to have a serious intellectual conversation about who Kinsey was and what he did." Focus on the Family has been working for two years — since it learned the Kinsey film was being made — to enlist scholars outside the Christian community to help discredit Kinsey's research. Concerned Women for America (CWA) has tapped Judith Reisman, who wrote a 1991 book called Kinsey, Sex and Fraud, as a prominent voice against Kinsey's legacy. The Post said, CWA, the nation's largest women's group, has encouraged its members to hand out leaflets at theaters that accuse Kinsey of committing child sexual abuse and scientific fraud.

Looking back

10 years ago

Christians should respond to the drastic changes in gambling-impacted communities by planting churches that target casino employees and gamblers, speakers say during a Home Mission Board sponsored conference, A Church in Glitzville, in Laughlin, Nev.

20 years ago

Thirteen-year-old Stacy Andrews of Hillcrest Church, New Albany, wins first place and a recording contract in the National Quartet Convention Talent Search with a rendition of, Because of Who You Are, a contemporary Christian song.

50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention takes one of its strongest stands in the temperance field by again calling upon the Governor and legislators to make good their promise concerning the mandate provision of Referendum Bill, Senate Bill No. 565, session of 1952.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Staff Change

Bolton Church, Bolton, has called Jackie Barnes as interim pastor. All are invited to attend worship Sundays at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m., and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Revival & Anniversary

Highland, Natchez: Revival December 5-8; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lyndon Longoria, evangelist; Price Harris, music; David McGuffie, pastor.

Goodrum, Vicksburg: 50th Anniversary December 12-16; there will be morning services, dinner on the grounds, and revival services at 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, preaching; all are welcome.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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LER THY HSA LER

FMXFERLP YRMR ZSLVT

IXES: PVSUR LEHL LVUR

LER NVSCAXU XD CXA

VP FMRHWERA, HSA

RBRMK UHS FMRPPRL

VSLX VL.

TZNR PVQLRRS: PVQLRRS

Clue: T = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 11:26

GOD, GIVE ME PATIENCE

I know a few, but a very small few, people who do not need patience. Now as for me personally, I am a fairly patient guy except when I'm in a really big hurry, or when I know something could be handled faster or more efficiently. Generally, I can roll with the punches and not get too upset or my blood pressure rise too much.

One of the interesting features of this "happy" season we are about to enjoy is that we are so rushed to get things done between work and work that we tend to get a little bit overloaded with things to do and underloaded with time to do it. On top of that, the bigger problem is that other people get in our way. They park in our parking spaces, get in line at our cash register, and clog up the roadways so that we can't quickly get from Point A to Point B, or from mall to mall. We need patience: good patience, real patience, and Godly patience.

Many of you already know that the word patience means to bear up under the load. It is to carry the burden of the moment without your knees buckling. That's the picture that is an emotional, spiritual, and even mental reality. Sometimes the burden is a health burden or, more clearly stated, a sickness burden. Sometimes it is a people problem, somebody who just seems to stand with all their weight on your last nerve. Sometimes it is a world-out-of-control kind of trouble. There you are caught in the midst of everything going the wrong way and there's nothing you can do about it.

Not long ago I had to catch a plane. I was cutting it close because these days they want you to be at the airport two hours before takeoff. I was trying to get my car parked, run in, get checked in, get on the plane, and go. I just so happened to be behind a car that was going 15 or 20 mph below the speed limit. I could not get around. I did not want to bump them to make



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

them go faster and they surely were not aware of my time restraints. I was OK with them driving slowly and it was all right if they were in front of me but I did whisper a silent prayer, "Lord, help me to be patient." I also reminded the Lord that I really, really, really didn't need to miss that plane. It was as if the Lord said to me, "Jim, calm down, relax, and I will take care of everything." I do not like to argue with the Lord and certainly if He has other plans for me — like making me late so I won't catch the plane because it's going to crash 30 minutes after takeoff — that's fine with me. On the other hand, if I left home too late, had to drive through too much heavy traffic, was stopped by too many lights, and generally missed my connection, then that's a different matter.

The couple in the car turned into the parking lot. The lady who was driving pulled up to the little ticket machine, rolled her window down, and could not figure out how to make the ticket come out to make the guardrail rise. She studied it a while, they discussed it a while, and then she stretched her arm out the window and punched the button. The machine produced a ticket but she could not reach it. She pulled her arm back in, rolled her window up, put the car in park, turned the ignition off, got out of the car, got the ticket, got back in the car, fumbled around for her keys, got the keys, cranked the car back up, put it back in gear and with her foot on the brake took the ticket and carefully filed it away in some special compartment of her purse, and then ever-so-slowly eased on into the lot.

Every second seemed endless to me. Did I honk? No, at least not literally. Did I roll my window down and say anything? No, because I was afraid she would never move. Was I impatient? Slightly! Now it was my turn. I pulled up to the machine, punched the button and waited, and waited, and waited for it to print my ticket and spit it out. It finally did. I entered the parking lot, drove to the first parking space I could find, jumped out of the car, and ran all the way across the parking lot into the airport, over to the security area where some guy was stopped because his belt buckle would not go through the beeper zone. Finally he motioned me through and I did not set off an alarm. I was getting closer, but it was close to take-off time. I rushed on down the hall, checked in, got on the plane just before they closed the doors, found my seat, and thought to myself, "I'm here! Let's go!" Just then the pilot came over the intercom to tell us that we would be delayed for a few minutes. After about 15 minutes he came on again to tell us he was not sure why we were grounded, everything seemed to be fine, and we would be taking off soon.

Another 15-20 minutes passed and the pilot told us we would soon be given clearance. Another five or 10 minutes passed and we left. I had not only arrived in time — I was way early.

God reminded me to be patient. I did not do or say anything that would bother anyone else, but it did bother me, and that was not good. Not only did I get irritated because some other folks weren't hurrying up, I failed to trust the Lord to believe that He could take care of every situation that I was going to face all day long. Probably most of us think of patience as a kind of tolerance of things that don't go our way, when in fact it may be having a calm spirit because we lean on the Lord in every circumstance.

During this wonderful but hectic time of the year, what can we do to be more patient? Give yourself a little more time to do the things that you need to do. Remember that in some cases if you don't get done what you feel like you need to get done, the world will not end! It may be important, but it is not absolutely essential. Keep in mind that wherever you are and whatever the circumstances, your actions and attitude will express a witness for good or bad. Your Christianity is not just a "Sunday morning thing." It is also a "Saturday morning at the pre-Christmas sale thing."

God bless you as you represent Him well.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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DEPART JUNE 26 or JULY 24, 2005

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 02, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Baptist Christian Education Clinics

February 12, Highland BC
Meridian

March 5, FBC
Jackson

These staff development classes are accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Private School Association.

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and there is a \$15 charge to be paid, in advance, with the preregistration form. Classes will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. for a total of 5 hours of credit. At 7:30, the directors (or their designee) will check in the whole group. In order to allow 5 contact hours for the classes, light refreshments will be available between the 2nd and 3rd class periods. Classes will be offered in tracks for those who teach babies and toddlers; twos; threes; fours & fives; after school grades 1-6; and also for directors.

For more information call Discipleship and Family Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284.

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings becoming like Him in His death. (Philippians 3:10 NIV)

In Christ's Steps

2005 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE *with choices*

Rhonda Kelley is the wife of the president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary where she is also professor of women's ministry.

Karen Fisk is the "former minister of music at Silverena B.C. and a member of "One Voice"

Testimonies by:

Evelyn Williams, Hickory
Janet Rayford, Crestwood New Life
Ceal Pate, FBC, Greenwood

The Women's State Visionary Team and the host church will welcome you.

January 24-25
Temple Baptist Church
Hattiesburg



Rhonda Kelley
Keynote Speaker



Karen Fisk
Worship Leader

Contact our state WMU for more info on the Women's Track.

2/16/01
MR. HADDON BLEDSOE
Parents: David & Laurie
General Evangelism:
Eastern South America

2/3/84
MR. DAVID J. COLLINS
Parents: Charles & Suzanne
Business Management:
The Caribbean Basin

2/4/85
MR. DAVID M. JOHNSTON
Parents: Vincent & Sharon
Church Planting:
Eastern South America

2/12/02
MISS ALICE A. MULLINS
Parents: Frank & Lynn
Church Planting:
Western Europe

2/24/94
MISS ABIGAIL L. PACKARD
Parents: Michael & Sabrina
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2/24/00
MR. NATHANIEL PEACOCK
Parents: Kevin & Brenda
Theological Education:
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MR. JOSHUA A. SCHMITZ
Parents: Burton & Suzanne
General Evangelism:
West Africa

2/12/03
MISS REBEKAH J. SCHMITZ
Parents: Burton & Suzanne
General Evangelism:
West Africa

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name and parent's name, MBCB Stewardship Dept. PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Encourage a MK with a birthday card!

PLEASE NOTE
Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.



2005

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Retreat



David
Young

January 14 & 15, 2005
Madison Central High School Band Hall
Madison, Miss.

Registration
Deadline
Dec. 17, 2004

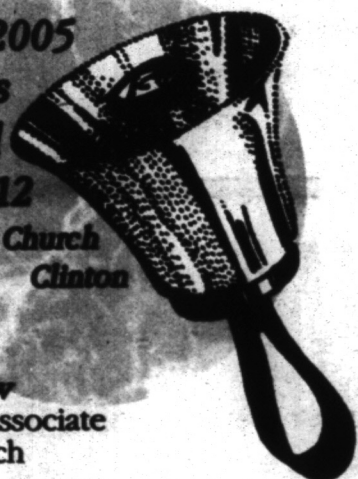
Schedule
Friday
January 14
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday
January 15
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For info and
registration,
contact:

Church Music
1-800-748-1651
601-292-3267

2005
Young Ringers
Festival
Saturday, March 12
Parkway Baptist Church
Clinton



Clinician
Sherrie Upshaw
Organist/Music Associate
First Baptist Church
Shreveport, La.

For info and registration, contact Church Music
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

the ACTS 1:8 CHALLENGE

Empowering the Church to Be On Mission

2005 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEWS with Nate Adams

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • Main Street BC,
Hattiesburg
Jan. 17, 2005
9 a.m.-noon | • FBC, Clinton
Jan. 18, 2005
9 a.m.-noon | • Central Hills
Baptist Retreat
Jan. 20, 2005
9 a.m.-noon |
|--|--|--|



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Preregistration requested
Cost \$10 - includes registration
for the preview, brunch and a
copy of the study course book



Nate Adams
vice president,
Missions
Mobilization,
NAMB
and author of
this year's
doctrine study
book

For more info, contact the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284.

WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA AWARDS AND WORKSHOP

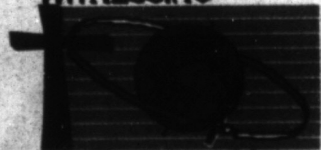
May 6-7, 2005

PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL, MISS.



Communication
Services

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

AWARDS COMPETITION

- Entries in the Awards Competition must have been produced or aired between April 2004 - March 1, 2005
- Awards entry deadline is **March 11, 2005**
- Awards entry cost is \$10 per entry

BANQUET AND WORKSHOP

- Banquet and workshop registration deadline is **April 15, 2005**
- Registration for all activities (banquet and workshop) is \$25 per person
- For groups of four or more, registration for all activities is \$20 per person

For more info, contact Communication Services at 1-800-748-1651,
601-292-3378 or E-mail: jchen@mbcb.org

Challenge

AWARD MOBILE
A/E. WOOD COLISEUM
THE GOLF COURSE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON
A NEW LEAD THE BEACH
DECEMBER 30-31, 2004



THE CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL offers something for the entire church family: conferences to help your church staff be more creative in the worship services; to better equip youth ministers/leaders for youth ministry and mission opportunities; to examine great old and new approaches to recreation; and to explore ways to use media, puppetry, clowning and drama.

These conferences are planned for both adults and students, and our hope is that you will consider being a part of this weekend in 2005

If you have any questions about the festival, please contact Rene Edwards at 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail her at redwards@mbcb.org.



THE SUIT PROJECT

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas" to pastors in the Colorado Baptist Convention.

Get all decked out!



What is it?

For over 40 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

What can you do?

Men's Ministry, RA, and WMU groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Attention: Men's Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Cost: \$130 per suit
Designate on your check: Suit Project

Sponsored by the
Men's Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**SPECIAL MINISTRY
FOR THE PASTORS'
WIVES**

If funds are available,
we will send clothing
gift certificates for the
wives.

"Taking Up the Towel as a Senior Adult"

STATE SENIOR ADULT EVANGELISM RALLY

Monday, January 24
Temple BC West Campus
Hattiesburg
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Seminars from WMU,
Sunday School,
Discipleship & Family
Ministry

Refreshments provided by
Mississippi Baptist
Foundation

Speaker: Jim Futral
Music: Paid in Full

For more info, contact Ken
601-544-1794

ESL

English as
a Second
Language
Workshops

LEE BAPTIST
ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE

2508 South Gloster Street, Tupelo
JANUARY 27-29th, 2005
Thursday: 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Friday: 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. *must attend all three sessions for certification

WORKSHOP LEADER: Mrs. Earlene Walker, Ripley, MS
COST: \$25 (includes manual and meal), \$5 (meal only, bring own manual)

Please make checks payable to Lee Baptist Association with memo
ESL Workshop. REGISTRATION DEADLINE is JANUARY 20, 2005.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mrs. Tammy Howard, Lee Baptist Association
P. O. Box 2640 • Tupelo, MS 38803 • 662-566-1700

JACKSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE

3713 Hospital Street, Pascagoula
JANUARY 27-29th, 2005

Thursday: 6-10 p.m. & Friday: 6-10 pm

Saturday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. *must attend all three sessions for certification
WORKSHOP LEADERS:

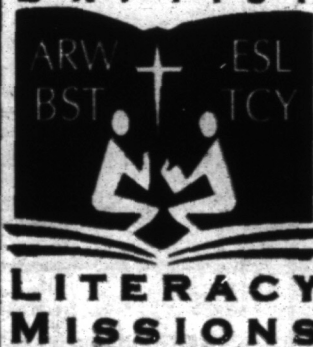
Mrs. Jeanne Eppes, Waynesboro and Mrs. Cindy Heimbach, Grenada
COST: \$25 (includes manual and meal), \$5 (meal only, bring own manual)

Please make checks payable to Jackson Baptist Association with memo
ESL Workshop. REGISTRATION DEADLINE is JANUARY 20, 2005.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Mrs. Shirley Massey, Jackson Baptist Association
P. O. Box 1726 • Pascagoula, MS 39568 • 228-769-7101

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTIST



EXTRA MILE Centri-Kid

EXTRA:

- 1: more than is due, usual, or necessary
- 2: Superior

MILE:

- 1: a thousand paces
- 2: a relatively great distance

Do you look at others and think about going a thousand paces for them? Do you desire to do more than is due or necessary for the people you see every day?

July 21-23

Join us at Centri-Kid 2005 to learn how to go
the EXTRA MILE for others.

Centri-Kid offers a quality Christian camp experience for children who have completed grades 3-6, combining quality worship with age-appropriate activities designed - from start to finish - to reach children with the message of Jesus Christ.

Cost: \$137 per person

Small-group Bible study follows the morning celebration, helping each child focus on the theme for the day and life application of God's Word. From there, campers choose from a variety of creative and exciting courses - known as "tracks" - that allow them opportunity to develop their talents and interests.

For more info,
contact
Sunday School
1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3292
jellis@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

December 3, 2004 - January 13, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Pray for your pastor! If pastors are not prayed FOR they are preyed ON."

Dr. Kevin Meador

Bill Crowe, Sykesville, Md., is director of partnership missions with the Mid-Maryland Association. Pray for a full-time associational church starter strategist to develop and assist churches in planting new congregations.

J. Mauricio Vargas, Jefferson City, is a church planter in Missouri. Pray for five new congregations in Kansas City. Pray for five Hispanic churches without pastors, and for four new Hispanic congregations in St. Louis.

Andrew Chan, Arcadia, Calif., is a Chinese language church starter strategist for the California Southern Baptist Convention. Pray for workers with a love for reaching the lost Chinese in the state to start new churches.

A member of the Mapuche Strategy Group of Chile and Argentina writes: "Please pray for our team and several national missionaries who work with Mapuches as we get together for a time of prayer and sharing. Pray that these national missionaries will have the same vision to plant churches, and that we can train them in church planting."

F, a refugee from a refugee camp in the North of the West Bank, became a believer 10 years ago and was baptized. She was active in her faith until her family forced her to marry a man 16 years her senior. Her brother-in-law discovered her Bible and destroyed it. When she was last seen she was still holding on to the Lord in faith but urgently needs your prayers.

For: (1) Deacon Emphasis Week, 9th-15th (P/LD); (2) Pray for the deaf Christians of Ecuador. There is much prejudice against the southern neighboring country. Deaf from that country cross over into Ecuador to sell things. Deaf peddlers are not respected by other deaf. Pray that God will fill the deaf Christians with His love to overflow to the non-Christians.

Several decades after imposing the one-child policy, China's government is now discussing how best to address the serious gender ratio imbalance that has resulted. With only 100 females for every 120 males nationwide, China has the highest gender ratio imbalance in the world. Pray that God will grant wisdom to those who are seeking resolutions to the problem.

A group of young Mwera men of Tanzania has begun meeting regularly to hear stories from the Bible. They have started with Creation and have heard through the story of Moses. Please be in prayer for these men that they will continue to attend, invite friends, and that as they come to the story of Jesus, their eyes will be opened to the truth.

Thank you for your prayers for the men's Bible study and for the ladies to start the Chronological Bible Storying group again among the Jola-fogny of Senegal. The men continue to come on Saturday afternoons, and they seem to understand that Jesus is God's Son and the Savior of the world. Pray that this understanding will have a

Pray for the orphans of Bulgaria who are basically forgotten and ignored by most of society. Pray that they will become believers and learn the joy and security of being part of a family of believers. Pray for those who are trying to work with these children and teenagers. Pray that they will get official approval to work in the homes.

H and her husband in Bangladesh have four children. H's husband was fired from his job as an auto mechanic. Though not a professed believer herself, she asked every Christian she knew to pray. After two days, her husband was called back to work. Give thanks to God for this clear demonstration of the power of prayer.

(1) Please pray against spiritual attacks a young businessman is experiencing in Libya. Ask that he will have peace and be able to move forward in confidence with the tasks before him now. (2) Thank you for praying for workers involved in translation and production of the JESUS film for the Hui of China.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 9:00 a.m.; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (3) Scott and Linda Davis are church planters in Indiana. Pray for God's glory to be shown through them.

Persecution of Christians in China is ongoing and, in some locations, has been particularly harsh in recent days. Within the last two months, there have been at least two mass arrests of believers in two different provinces. Pray that during the current crackdown, Christians will remain strong in their faith and fervent in their testimony.

real meaning in their lives. A Christian journalist reports that the newly installed municipal council in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, includes six Christians. This group hosted a meal on Oct. 3 for clergy, elders, other council members and political office holders. They expressed hope for regularly scheduled meetings for prayer and Scripture reading. Pray for

R is a single woman in her early 20s. She lives in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip with her parents and nine brothers and sisters. Visitors to their home are impressed by how much the family loves each other. R graduated from college, but has been unable to find a job so she helps a Christian organization distribute food. Pray that she will accept Christ as her Savior.

In October, bombings once again rocked the lives of South Asians, this time in two states in India-Nagaland and Assam. Pray that the Prince of Peace would come to rule in the hearts of those who perpetrate such deadly acts and that His peace likewise would comfort those who mourn.

Many patients in the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India express an interest in knowing more about Jesus. Those from rural areas are generally more responsive. It has been especially difficult to follow up the contacts in the urban areas. Pray that an effective way can be found to show urban patients the Truth, Jesus Christ.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 8th-10th; (2) The integrity of Uganda Baptist Seminary students. Some struggle with remaining true to the teachings of the Bible with so many other pseudo-Christian denominations trying to sway them to join and give their churches over to false doctrines.

What if you had never seen a Bible, but had heard that it was powerful and magical? For one Acehnese boy of Indonesia, he couldn't contain his curiosity and stole a Bible in order to read it for himself. Pray that Acehnese will be drawn to God's Word, and that somehow, Bibles will be available when they look for one.

Christians in this government. Bryan Crittendon is a chaplain. The operation tempo is very high and service member families are under great stress. Please pray for the families of servicemen and the chaplains ministering to them.

Pray for a group of ladies who are attending a Bible study in the Zarea of Mombasa, Kenya. Some of these ladies are new Christians, and some are not Christians yet. Pray that each will learn of and experience God's love, which will enable them to live in Him to the fullest.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th-7th; (2) G.A. Camp Staff Reunion, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (3) One Voice Retreat, Baptist Building, Jackson, noon, 7th - noon, 8th (CM); (4) Continue to ask God to send someone to reach the missions in southern Peru who need to hear the gospel.

Frank and Sheri Moran, missionaries in South Africa, ask: "Pray for the deaf groups we are leading/training in Chronological Bible Storying, that their faith will be committed to our Lord Jesus Christ as they forsake the interests of the world."

A recent study of the sexual behaviors of Filipino youth, ages 15 to 24, revealed that 23 percent had engaged in premarital sex, many with a partner belonging to the same sex. Pray that Filipino youth will come to understand the love of Jesus and will commit themselves to lifestyles of purity.

Thank you for praying for the summer volunteer teams that went to Turkey. One consisted of 21 students from all over the United States. The students ministered among Turkish university students by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. These students were filled with excitement as they shared the Good News with many who were hearing it for the first time.

The Caribs of the Caribbean are an indigenous tribal group on the northern coast of South America. They live in small villages stretching from Venezuela to French Guiana, along the coast, inland rivers, and in interior regions. The tribe is disconnected, and feel that the tribal identity is being lost. Pray that a church planting Movement will bring unity to the Carib tribe.

For: (1) Youth Evangelism Conference, A.E. Wood Coliseum, Mississippi College, Clinton, 30th - 31st; (2) Pray for the upcoming boat race festival among the Khmer people in Vietnam. There will be almost 1 million Khmer gathering in Soc Trang to watch the boat races. Pray for the Christians who will be mingling among them to plant the gospel seed.

The Makrani people are a small migrant community of Muslims who live in the city of Ahmedabad in India's Gujarat state. Husbands and wives work jointly in agricultural work to provide for their families. Please pray that Gujarati Christians would notice these migrant workers and would reach out to them with the love of Jesus.

A Great Commission Christian group will be showing the JESUS film in Koromba villages in northern Burkina Faso during the months of November 2004 through May 2005. Pray that this would open doors to evangelism and church planting among the Koromba. Pray that the churches that are in this region would see where God is at work and join Him.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Nov. 28-Dec. 5 (WMU Emphasis); (2) Christian workers in China are challenged by new stipulations that require some overseas residents to leave China every 30 days for visa renewal. Pray that God will give extra patience to those who are burdened with this inconvenience.

There are many churches in the city of Puno, Peru, but few have the spiritual vision to reach their city for Christ. Pray for God to raise up new believers, new churches, and a new vision in the existing churches.

Haudry Sajjat Hussain has recently been appointed as the interim prime minister for Pakistan. Pray for Mr. Hussain and for President Pervez Musharraf as they work together to bring peace to Pakistan. Pray that both of these highly influential men will come to know Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Pray for the small group of believers in an interior town in Equatorial Brazil as they continue to be persecuted by threats of violence in the form of destroying the small "shack-like" house/church that is there.

Pray for a group from "Pavilion of Hope" in Canada doing construction work at the Drug Rehabilitation Center for Teenaged Boys in Estiva, southern Brazil. Organizers designed the center to work exclusively with poor boys between 8 and 17 who had been involved in juvenile delinquency acts. Pray that God would change their hearts by letting Jesus come in.

Phil Miglioratti, Palatine, Ill. is the state prayer coordinator for the Illinois Baptist Convention. Please pray for state staff to incorporate prayer in their programs and for directors of missions to encourage their pastors to build prayer driven congregations.

Two students, Mr. W of Mayani and Mr. H of Mphoola, have graduated from Bible school and now meet the requirements set in place by the local Malawi Baptist Convention to serve as church pastors. Pray for these men as they lead their churches now with greater understanding and ministry skills.

Pray for the Chuabo Baptist youth of Mozambique. They face many challenges in their lives, such as pressure from family to be sexually active. Pray that the youth will say no to their family, knowing that the end result of this lifestyle is AIDS. Pray that the youth will be strong in their faith and be able to handle the family pressures in their lives.

The city of Colima is the capital of the State of Colima, Mexico. Colima is experiencing very rapid growth, with an urban population of about 220,000. Resources available for reaching the people with the gospel include the Spanish Bible, the Jesus film, audiocassette tapes of the gospel, and discipleship materials in Spanish. Pray for the evangelization of Colima.

For: (1) Christmas Observance that the spiritual will be emphasized and not material things; (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Allan Kemakeza of The Solomon Islands (South Pacific Ocean, east of Papua New Guinea); (3) Pray for President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa (southern Africa).

For: (1) "Make your will month" (MBF Emphasis); (2) Please pray today for King Juan Carlos I of Spain (southwestern Europe); (3) Pray that God will provide an English as a Second Language (ESL) coach to come and work among the Hausa people of the Niger Republic.

Members of the Professional and University Class Team of Caracas, Jeff and Risa Grace, write: "Please pray that God will move among the 40,000+ students at the largest university in Caracas, Venezuela. Pray that God would show IMB team members and other Christian workers on campus what He wants done and what their part in His plan is."

A black and white photograph showing a group of men standing on a ship's deck. Several men are wearing overalls, while others are in suits. An American flag is visible in the background.

[illegible]

audio
SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

Baptist

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Confess Jesus, God's Son

John 1:19-34

By Frances C. Graham

Imagine for just a few minutes that you live in Jerusalem in 27AD. You have heard some strange stories about a man, named John, baptizing people over near Bethabara in the river Jordan. You along with others are wondering who this person is and if he could be the Messiah that many are expecting to come some day.

Word is that John, a priest of the seed of Aaron, is preaching as well as baptizing. The priests and Levites along with the Pharisees in Jerusalem form a committee to go find out who he really is and what he thinks he is doing. After all, they must show their authority and silence him as quickly as possible.

When the committee asked John if he were the Christ

("Christ" or christos is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word Messiah, both meaning "anointed"), he quickly responded with "I am not the Christ" (John 1:20).

They then asked if he were Elijah because they remembered the promise God made (Malachi 4:5-6) that He would send Elijah before the day that the Lord comes. John quickly responded "I am not" (John 1:21). They next asked if he were the Prophet that Moses promised in Deuteronomy 18:15. John again answered "No" (John 1:21).

Talk about hard to get the point across, the committee just wouldn't give up and John responded by quoting Isaiah 40:3 "I am the voice of the one calling in the desert...



Graham

Make straight the way of the Lord."

The Pharisees were not content because they thought John should not be baptizing since he responded that he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet.

John told the Pharisees that he baptized with water, but there was one coming after him so great that even John would not be worthy to unlatch his sandals.

When you hear this report, you decide it is time to go to the river to see for yourself. You quietly slip out of Jerusalem and head for the Jordan as quickly as possible. You must cross the river and go to the Bethany, east of the Jordan. Bethany was also referred to as Bethabara, which means "the place of crossing over." You have heard of this place before because some identify it as the place where Joshua crossed the Jordan River when he led the people into the Promised Land.

When you arrive, you dis-

cover a multitude of people waiting to be baptized for repentance of their sins. You are not sure what all this is about but this fellow John is repeatedly emphasizing repentance of sins. John also refers to the one coming as the Lamb of God who is the Messiah.

John's emphasis on the Lamb of God goes much beyond your present understanding. He is saying that this Lamb will be the great sacrifice where atonement is made for sin and in turn, man will be reconciled to God.

You must know more. As you ask more questions, it is explained that the Lamb of God takes all the sin upon Himself just as the live goat took all the Israelites sins upon his head when Aaron placed his hands on the head of the goat and confessed their sins (Leviticus 16:21).

You stand on tip toe to watch and listen as John continues to give testimony to Christ's pre-existence and purpose.

The next day when John

sees Jesus coming toward him, John calls out "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). For you see, John was actually baptizing Jesus before he knew that Jesus was the Son of God. God gave John a revelation by letting him know that when he saw the dove come down from the heavens during the baptism he would then know the Son of God.

John wanted no misunderstanding among the multitudes or the religious leaders so he very clearly states "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God" (John 1:34).

Reflecting on the events you have just witnessed, you realize that John displayed the role that we must all assume. We must focus our witness on Jesus not ourselves and we must proclaim belief in Jesus if we truly want to live in His light.

Graham is a member of Adaton Church, Starkville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Relating to Others

Luke 14:1, 7-15

By Neil Gant

Once a small commercial fishing vessel was caught in a violent storm at sea. The five men in the crew were forced to abandon ship. They clung to life in the water with waves that reached heights of eighty feet. The ship went down soon after one of the massive waves struck it. Three of the five men survived this awesome display of the sea's fury. As powerful a force as the sea has a rival in the hearts of humanity. That rival is pride. This week's lesson encourages us to adopt an attitude of humility.

CLAIM NO SUPERIORITY, LUKE 14:1, 7-9

Wherever Jesus went someone was watching. Luke indicates they watched Him closely. The religious crowd of the

day was waiting for Him to do something they could bring an accusation against. I often think of how many of the people of that day were offended when Jesus opened blind eyes, healed lame legs, and even raised the dead. These religious leaders missed an important point. Jesus was also watching them. He noticed that some of the people who came to the feast scrambled for the places of honor. They all wanted to sit at the head table. The person seated close to the host established his importance. Jesus spoke a parable to them. If you are invited to a wedding feast, certainly a formal occasion, do not try to sit at the highest place. Someone more important than you may come and then in embarrass-



Gant

ment you will have to take the lowest place. Pride is nothing more than thinking we are better than any other person. Demonstrate humility by refusing to claim special position, benefits, or privileges.

SEEK NO HONOR, LUKE 14:10-11

When you go to the feast, take the lowest place. If you take that place, the host may say, move up higher. Then honor comes from humility. The point is that it is better to be lifted up than to be let down. Verse eleven states a clear principle, those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Lucifer is an example of one who exalted himself and was brought down (Isaiah 14). The Lord Jesus humbled Himself and was exalted (Philippians 2).

MEET OTHERS NEEDS, LUKE 14:12-14

Humility is best seen when we do for those who cannot

do anything for us in return. The host invited the most important people he knew. Jesus was not forbidding the invitation of such people. He does not want us to avoid having friends or family for a meal. He wants us to keep away from a rigid restriction of inviting only those who can do something for us in return. If we invite them and exclude others, we fail to show the proper Christian hospitality (Romans 12:13). If we only associate with people of our own group, we miss great opportunities to bless and be blessed by others. Selfish attitudes also cause us to miss out on some of life's greatest lessons learned at a bedside or wheelchair. We need to give to others, those who cannot repay, so that we will have reward in the resurrection of the righteous. Our reward for selfishness will be left behind in death. That reward applies to this life. True rewards are enjoyed throughout eternity.

LEARN HUMILITY, LUKE 14:15

This man attempted to impress Jesus and show that he agreed with the lesson taught. The common view among Jews was that only the children of Abraham would be invited to the heavenly feast. On the surface it seems to be a reverent expression of faith. It probably is nothing more than an expression of misunderstanding. It may further reflect the idea that what Jesus said was really meant for someone else. The parable that follows in verses 16-24 indicates the need to apply the idea of humility to life. Humility is more than a concept. Humility is to be reflected in life. Humility is revealed in words spoken and actions taken. Humility is in the reach of all believers. We may not have great wealth to give. We may not be able to preach or teach in the public arena. We may not have time nor opportunity to go on mission trips. All of us can strive to be humble.

Gant is pastor of Pine Grove Church, Hickory Flat.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

THE BAPTIST
Record

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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For more information on any or all of
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Billy Graham wows history-making crowd

PASADENA, Calif. (BP) — Helped by his son Franklin, the aging evangelist Billy Graham made his way to the pulpit on a rare chilly Sunday afternoon in Pasadena on Nov. 21. The 87-year-old Graham had made this trip thousands of times over the past 65 years of ministry, but nearly everyone in the stadium realized it would be one of his last.

After glancing down at his notes one last time, he looked up and smiled reassuringly at a myriad of more than 82,000 people at the Rose Bowl. "People have said this could be the last sermon I will ever preach," Graham told the largest non-sporting event crowd in the stadium's history, "and it may be, but I don't know. That's all in God's hands."

He then jokingly reminded the audience that his longtime friend George Beverly Shea — who had just sung Softly and Tenderly — was nearly 10 years older than he, "and it is certainly not the last time he is going to sing!"

Some 12,000 people made decisions for Christ during the four-day crusade. The crusade had been originally scheduled for July but was postponed after doctors decided he needed more time to heal from a fall he suffered in May.

Graham is scheduled to preach at a crusade in New York City in June 2005.

Like a grandfather who knew he had limited opportunities to guide future generations, Graham turned his attention to the Gospel message. Using illustrations few in the world could use — including conversations with former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan — Graham encouraged those attending to prepare for Christ's coming by accepting Him into their life.

"Many of you have Christian parents and were raised in a Christian home, but you have this other pull toward the sins of this world," Graham said. "But are you really happy? Something is missing in your life."

The Gospel is the only remedy for that emptiness, Graham said. "Jesus gave His life, all His scourging, all the nails that went



DECISION TIME — More than 3,400 people made decisions for Christ during the final session of the Billy Graham crusade in Pasadena Nov. 21. The four-day total was 12,000 people who went forward in response to the Gospel. (BP photo by Tobin Perry)

into His hands and feet, they were for you," he said. "Jesus shed His blood for you and me."

Halfway through the 45-minute sermon Graham sat down in the pulpit that had been custom-made for him. "Now I could preach for another hour," he jokingly told the cheering audience.

Whether or not Graham was preaching his last sermon ever, it was, in all likelihood, his last sermon in California. Many of Graham's most memorable crusades have taken place in the state during the past half century.

"It was great to be a part of this," said John Ernest, a member of First Church of Temple City, Calif., who sang in the choir and served as a counselor. "I grew up knowing about Billy Graham. I had attended a couple of other crusades, but this was the first time that I was able to serve at one."

Michael Reagan, son of the late President Ronald Reagan, helped to introduce Graham with a powerful testimony about his own salvation.

During the testimony, Reagan opened up about how knowing Christ had helped him overcome problems as a child and a sometimes distant relationship with his parents.

"As you listen tonight, think of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ standing at the doorway of your life with His arms open wide wanting to give you a hug," Reagan said. "He can rid you of the pain you feel toward someone else, maybe even yourself. He wants to embrace you."

The crusade wasn't without disruption. Graham was interrupted temporarily by a protester during his Friday evening message. He seemed undaunted.

"That exact thing happened to us in 1950 here, in the Rose Bowl, and God was at work," he said.

Another protester was apprehended after jumping onto the stage during the invitation time, when counselors were meeting with people who were making decisions.

The Saturday service focused mostly on the youth. During the message, Graham

recalled the Jesus Movement that began in the late 1960s. Graham said he ponders the potential positive effects of the same sort of movement among youth today.

"We could start another culture with Jesus at the center, obeying His commandments," he said, followed by a roaring applause of agreement from the crowd.

In addition to the 12,000 who made commitments to Christ, another long-lasting benefit for Southern California churches will be the 5,000 people trained to share their faith through the Christian Life and Witness Course, which all counselors must attend.

The 12,500 decisions made during the crusade ranks as one of Graham's highest totals over the past few years.

MS POSITIONS

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CHURCH ORGANIST: DANIEL Memorial Baptist Church is seeking an organist for the Sunday School services in south Jackson. Send resumes to personnel committee chairman, Randy Green, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

IS MUSIC YOUR MINISTRY? Do you have a heart for youth? Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., is accepting resumes for minister of music/youth/education. Send to personnel committee chairman, Immanuel Baptist Church, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

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PASTOR: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Tuscumbia, Alabama. Currently accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Please send resume to pastor search committee, 601- N. Main Street, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. Resumes will be taken until January 1, 2005.

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH:

Aliceville First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister to serve and equip our church in music and youth ministries. Please send resumes to search committee, 323 Broad Street, Aliceville, AL 35442. Or call (205) 373-2386 for more information.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ACCEPTING resumes for middle school minister. Must have minimum of three years experience and must possess a master's degree. Resumes must be received by December 15, 2004. Please send resume and salary history to middle school search committee, FBC, 2412 Chris Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043.

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